

§ 556.32

affected local government if he determines, after having provided the opportunity for consultation, that they provide for a reasonable balance between the National interest and the well-being of the citizens of the affected State. A determination of the National interest shall be based on the findings, purposes and policies of the Act.

(c) The Secretary shall communicate to the Governor, in writing, the reasons for his determination to accept or reject such Governor's recommendations, or to implement any alternative means identified in consultation with the Governor to provide for a reasonable balance between the National interest and the well-being of the citizens of the affected State.

§ 556.32 Notice of sale.

(a) Upon approval of the Secretary, the Director shall publish the notice of lease sale in the FEDERAL REGISTER as the official publication, and may publish the notice in other publications. The publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER shall be at least 30 days prior to the date of the sale. The notice shall state the place and time at which bids shall be filed, and the place, date and hour at which bids shall be opened. The notice shall contain or reference a description of the areas to be offered for lease and any stipulations, terms and conditions of the sale.

(b) Tracts shall be offered for lease by competitive sealed bidding under conditions specified in the notice of lease sale and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. A suggested format for bidder submissions appears in the appendix to this part.

(c) The notice of lease sale shall contain a reference to the OCS lease form which shall be issued to successful bidders.

(d) With the approval of the Secretary, the Director may defer any part of the payment of the cash bonus according to a schedule announced at the time of the notice of lease sale. Payment shall be made no later than 5 years after the date of the lease sale. The schedule shall contain provisions for guaranteed payment of a deferred bonus.

(e) In order to obtain statistical information to determine which bidding

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alternatives best accomplish the purposes and policies of the Act, the Director may, until September 18, 1983, require each bidder to submit bids for any OCS area in accordance with more than one of the bidding systems described in section 8(a)(1) of the Act. No more than 10 percent of the tracts offered each year shall contain such a requirement. Leases may be awarded using a bidding alternative selected at random for statistical purposes, if it is otherwise consistent with the purposes and policies of the Act.

Subpart G—Issuance of Leases

§ 556.35 Qualifications of lessees.

(a) In accordance with section 8 of the Act, leases shall be awarded only to the highest responsible qualified bidder.

(b) Mineral leases issued pursuant to section 8 of the Act may be held only by:

(1) Citizens and nationals of the United States;

(2) Aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20);

(3) Private, public or municipal corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or of the District of Columbia or territory thereof; or

(4) Associations of such citizens, nationals, resident aliens, or private, public, or municipal corporations, States, or political subdivisions of States.

(c) BOEM may disqualify you from acquiring any new lease holdings or lease assignments if your operating performance is unacceptable according to 30 CFR 550.135.

§ 556.37 Lease term.

(a)(1) All oil and gas leases shall be issued for an initial period of 5 years, or not to exceed 10 years where the authorized officer finds that such longer period is necessary to encourage exploration and development in areas because of unusually deep water or other unusually adverse conditions.

(2) If your oil and gas lease is in water depths between 400 and 800 meters, it will have an initial lease term of 8 years unless BOEM establishes a